

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-07

IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 NSC-05 /089 W

-----261348Z 125022 /45

R 260927Z MAR 77

FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2054

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO ALL MBFR MISSIONS 0248

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY REYKJVAIK

S E C R E T MBFR VIENNA 0150

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: SUMMARY REPORT FOR PERIOD MARCH 21-27

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: AT THE MARCH 22 INFORMAL SESSION OF THE VIENNA FORCE REDUCTION NEGOTIATIONS, WESTERN REPS AGAIN ADVANCED, AND EASTERN REPS AGAIN REJECTED THE WESTERN PROPOSAL THAT THE NEXT STEP IN THE DISCUSSION OF COUNTING RULES AND DATA SHOULD BE THE TABLING OF MANPOWER FIGURES FOR US AND SOVIET FORCES IN THE AREA OF REDUCTIONS. EASTERN

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REPS ONCE MORE URGED INSTEAD THAT ALL DIRECT PARTICIPANTS TABLE SEPARATE DATA ON THEIR FORCES. THEY STATED THAT SUCH ACTION WOULD BE WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO THE REDUCTION PROGRAM OF EITHER SIDE. END SUMMARY.

2. AT THE MARCH 22 INFORMAL SESSION, THE OPENING EASTERN STATEMENT TIED THE STANDARD EASTERN ALLEGATION THAT NON-US

WESTERN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS WANTED TO AVOID A MEANINGFUL FIRST-STAGE COMMITMENT TO REDUCE THEIR FORCES IN A SECOND STAGE TO THE WESTERN PROPOSAL MADE THE WEEK BEFORE THAT PARTICIPANTS PROCEED TO TABLE MANPOWER FIGURES ONLY FOR US AND SOVIET FORCES IN THE AREA. THE RELUCTANCE OF OTHER WESTERN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS TO PRESENT SIMILAR DATA FOR THEIR FORCES WAS CITED AS CONFIRMING THE EASTERN CONCLUSION THAT THESE OTHER WESTERN PARTICIPANTS HAD NO SERIOUS INTENTION OF REDUCING THEIR FORCES, BUT RATHER SOUGHT TO CONFINE REDUCTIONS TO US AND SOVIET FORCES. EASTERN REPS AGAIN REJECTED THE WESTERN DATA DISAGGREGATION PROPOSAL AS BEING TOO LIMITED AND REPEATED THEIR COUNTER-PROPOSAL THAT ALL DIRECT PARTICIPANTS SIMULTANEOUSLY TABLE SEPARATE MANPOWER DATA ON THEIR FORCES. EASTERN REPS EXPLICITLY STATED THAT ADOPTION OF THE LATTER ALTERNATIVE WOULD BE WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO THE REDUCTION PROGRAM OF EITHER SIDE.

3. DURING THE SESSION, THERE WAS A FURTHER EXCHANGE OF QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CONCERNING THE DATA TABLED RESPECTIVELY BY EACH SIDE THUS FAR. EASTERN REPS CONTINUED TO DEFEND THE COMPREHENSIVENESS OF THE FIGURES ALREADY GIVEN FOR WARSAW PACT FORCES AND PRESENTED REASONS WHY THE WESTERN VIEW TO THE CONTRARY COULD NOT BE SUSTAINED. WESTERN REPS RESTATED THE CASE FOR MOVING TO THE CONSIDERATION OF US AND SOVIET DATA AS A LOGICAL NEXT STEP IN THE DISCUSSION. WESTERN REPS ALSO MADE FURTHER REFERENCE TO INCONSISTENCIES BETWEEN PREVIOUS EASTERN BEHAVIOR AND THE CURRENT EASTERN CONTENTION THAT THE WARSAW PACT ENJOYED NO APPRECIABLE MANPOWER SUPERIORITY IN CENTRAL

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EUROPE. THE OPENING WESTERN STATEMENT DEALT WITH THE RATIONALE FOR THE WESTERN CONCEPT OF A COMMON COLLECTIVE CEILING WITH SUB-CEILINGS ON US AND SOVIET FORCES.

4. ON MARCH 23, THE AD HOC GROUP APPROVED A REPORT TO THE NAC ON THE EASTERN REACTION THUS FAR TO THE WESTERN PROPOSAL THAT TOTALS OF US AND SOVIET FIGURES BE TABLED. THE REPORT INCLUDED THE JUDGMENT THAT THE EASTERN REFUSAL TO AGREE TO THIS WESTERN PROPOSAL APPEARED FIRM AND THAT PROLONGED DEBATE WAS NOT LIKELY TO REVERSE IT. IT WENT ON TO AFFIRM THE IMPORTANCE TO THE WEST OF CONTINUING TO BE IN A POSITION TO BRING EASTERN DATA UNDER CRITICAL SCRUTINY AND RECOMMENDED THAT THE NAC DECIDE SOON ON THE NEXT MOVE IN THIS REGARD.

5. UK REP BOLLAND MADE THE ONLY STATEMENT AT THE MARCH 24 PLENARY MEETING. HIS PRESENTATION REVIEWED THE MAIN ELEMENTS OF THE POSITIONS OF EAST AND WEST IN THE LIGHT OF THE AGREED GOALS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS.

HE DEMONSTRATED THAT, UNLIKE PROPOSALS PUT FORTH BY THE
EAST, WESTERN PROPOSALS PROVIDED THE BASIS FOR AN
EQUITABLE AND MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE AGREEMENT IN CONFORMITY
WITH THOSE GOALS. RESOR

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DISARMAMENT, NEGOTIATIONS, MUTUAL FORCE REDUCTIONS, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 26-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MBFRV00150
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770104-1139
Format: TEL
From: MBFR VIENNA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770319/aaaaaqcu.tel
Line Count: 120
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 90023ab1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ACDA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2986894
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: SUMMARY REPORT FOR PERIOD MARCH 21-27
TAGS: PARM, XH, XT, NATO
To: STATE DOD
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/90023ab1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009